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Board of Trustees Minutes, June 11, 1953

Eastern Washington College of Education

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MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Eastern Washington College of Education
Davenport Hotel, Spokane
2:30 p.m., June 11, 1953

The Board of Trustees of Eastern Washington College of Education met at 2:30 p.m. in the Davenport Hotel on Thursday, June 11, 1953. Those present were: J. Harold Anderson, chairman; Charles A. Gonser and Mrs. Frank Laughon, members; W. W. Force, secretary; and Otis W. Freeman, president of the College.

MINUTES

The minutes for the meeting of May 29, 1953, were read and approved.

RESIGNATIONS:

The following resignations were accepted:

- a. Summer Session
Homer Davis, Division of Education
- b. Secretaries
Mrs. Sue Kelley, Messrs. Frasier and Wallace's office, as of June 10
Mrs. Paula Thomas, comptroller's office, as of June 18
Mrs. Elaine Migvar, deans' office - half-time, June 10
Miss Bernell Sinn, deans' office - half-time, June 11

EMPLOYMENT

- a. Summer Session
Mrs. Bruce Sinclair, kindergarten and one college class, \$600 for seven weeks
Ernest R. Fox, replacement for Mr. Davis, instructor in education, \$750
- b. Secretarial Help
Mrs. Marilyn Bauer, mimeograph office, at \$165 per month, effective June 8
Sandra Allen, secretary deans' office, \$160 per month, effective June 10
- c. Supplemental
Robert Nelson, lifesaving and swimming for men, \$300 for nine weeks
Mrs. Norma Williams, lifesaving and swimming for women, \$300 for nine weeks

EMPLOYMENT (Cont'd)

- d. Request for Loyd Virtue, carpenter foreman, for raise in salary from \$383.33 to \$408.33 as of June 1, with addition of title of Building Maintenance Superintendent, was approved by the Board.

An increase of \$25.00 per month for Mildred King, accountant in comptroller's office, effective June 1, was approved.

- e. The Board gave authorization to the President and the Director of the Summer Session to fill any emergency position that may arise for the summer session.

MINOR CAPITAL OUTLAY

The Board authorized the calling for bids on finishing of the basketball court floor in the Fieldhouse.

The Board authorized the calling for bids for repairs by contract on the following items:

	Estimated
1. Renovation of electrical service at Hargreaves main reading room and basement (Art Department) area - - -	\$750.00
2. Installation of electric capacitors on Heating Plant lines - - - - -	1,375.00
3. Asphalt treatment and patching on Monroe, Sutton, and Hudson Halls and Fieldhouse - - - - -	485.00
4. Installation of bell system (door) for faculty wing on new dormitory - - - - -	375.00

The Board approved the purchase of materials for the following maintenance work, the labor to be furnished by the college:

	Estimated
1. Materials for installation of sidewalks on campus about Showalter Hall and Monroe Print Shop area - - -	425.00
2. Installation of street curbs and repair of curbs at Hargreaves Library in 7th Street and 5th Street in front of Showalter Hall - materials - - - - -	115.00
3. Replacing of wire netting on Monroe Street Tennis Court fence - materials - - - - -	150.00

The Board approved the purchase of materials for the reroofing with composition shingles of six units at Faculty Housing, Infirmary, the three annex units, and Hudson Cafeteria, at an estimated cost of materials of \$4,867.00. This work is to proceed as a two-year program of work.

RESOLUTION

Mrs. Laughbon made the motion that the following resolution be adopted, and Mr. Gonser seconded the motion:

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"In a departure from usual procedure and without authority from Trustees or Administration, the faculty organization made charges against Mr. W. B. Reese.

- "(1) To the effect that he had used unethical methods, fraud or undue influence, to obtain grades in courses necessary to obtain a degree of Master of Education. A committee of the faculty organization, appointed by it to investigate the charges, later added charges which were not clear but apparently intended to imply
- (2) that Mr. Reese was otherwise not fit or capable to discharge his duties as chairman of the Department of Physical Education Director of Athletics at Eastern Washington College.

"At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held on May 29, 1953, a report of the investigating committee and verbal statements in support of the charges and by way of defense, were adduced, supplemented by written statements later filed with the Board. The whole matter has been confused by additional activity of the faculty organization in its adoption of resolutions of "no confidence" in the President and other members of the College Administration and by additional activity of the faculty organization investigating committee. It must be remembered that no Master's degree was given to Mr. Reese, that no attempt was made to give him a degree and that none could have been awarded to him under any circumstance. If there was a question as to any grade or course in his work towards a degree, the normal procedure would have been an investigation and review by the Graduate Council. However, the Graduate Council members chose to resign, blaming its chairman for the Graduate Council's failure to investigate. The chairman was unreasonable, but the Council had no right to rely on that. This confusing situation was then further confused by the fact that some members of the Graduate Council were on the Faculty Organization investigating committee, and ended with those members being in the position of investigating themselves and their own actions. Of course they sought to justify themselves by renouncing their own previous actions in approving the candidacy of Mr. Reese for the Master's degree.

"A serious animosity towards the College administration has been indicated by a number of the leaders of this activity, in intemperate statements which have been made, in the departure from recognized procedures, and in usurpation of authority. No complaint or request for investigation was filed with the Board. Until that time the organization took all matters in its own hands, without any jurisdiction to do so. There is some reason to believe that the charges against Mr. Reese were used to cause a turmoil. It appears there had been enough previous domination by Mr. Reese and personality clashes in his own department and division, to make it possible for him to be made the object of a cause, and for more naive members of the faculty to follow the confused course of action that ensued.

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"The Board finds that despite a determined effort by the investigating committee of the faculty organization to convict Mr. Reese of the first charge (that he used unethical methods, etc.), there is no evidence or any word, action, or intent on his part indicating his guilt, or in any way indicating his guilt in matters of morals, character, or integrity. It is true an error was made in the office of the President approving a publication in the catalogue of an entry to the effect that Mr. Reese had a Master's degree, but no other records supported this publication--in fact they showed to the contrary that he had not earned the degree. It is also true that two instructors stated they had given grades to Mr. Reese when he had not earned them, long after the grades were given, but they also stated that they did not do so as a result of any request or action on his part. They stated he did not attend classes, but it was also shown that class attendance is not always required in such cases. Records and statements are all to the effect that Mr. Reese's graduate work as a student at W. S. C. and N. Y. U. and other work at E. W. C. E., was completely satisfactory. The situation did indicate that it was a mistake in the policy of the Graduate Council to allow a member of the staff with rank exceeding that of instructor to take courses in the College.

"It is hereby determined that Mr. Reese be retained as Director of Athletics at E. W. C. E. The resignation from the faculty of E. W. C. E. of Wilfred Beard, Antoinette Dustin, Edward J. Pillings, Marlys Bridgham, Richard H. Hagelin, Ruth Kriehn, and Jane Patterson, are hereby accepted. The resignation of Albert H. Poffenroth from his duties in Athletics and Physical Education is hereby accepted.

"Any and all arrangements, understandings, and agreements, between the Board of Trustees and the faculty organization, are hereby suspended until further action of the Board.

"Effective at the beginning of the fall term of 1953, each and every Chairman of a Division is hereby removed from the Chairmanship, their successors to be chosen in a manner and for a term in each case as shall hereafter be determined and without extra remuneration.

"The chairman and all other members of the Graduate Council are hereby removed from the Council, and the President is requested to appoint a new Graduate Council to serve until further action be taken.

"The following members of the teaching staff will not be employed by E. W. C. E. after the summer session, and those of them who have been employed for the summer session are each given a leave of absence, effective immediately, to-wit:

Marilyn M. Beach
E. L. Chalberg
Roger W. Chapman
Dorothy Crunk
Hope E. Cullen
Albert P. Ludwig

Clayton B. Shaw
Forrest Sloan
T. Earl Tilley
Obed J. Williamson
Paul N. Woolf
Edward J. Pillings from
directorship of Sutton Hall

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"All of said persons are directed to remove all effects from offices on the campus, to turn in all keys to the proper authorities within 24 hours, and to refrain from taking any further part in College and campus affairs. Failure to comply with this instruction will be deemed sufficient reason for immediate cancellation of any further compensation. The President and Director of the Summer Session are authorized and empowered, after further investigation, in their own discretion, to add to said list, the following named persons, to-wit:

William Drummond
Dana Harter
Richard Miller

L. A. Patmore
Raymond Whitfield

"The Board of Trustees is mindful of the fine tradition of Eastern Washington College and its eminent standing in the educational system of the State. It is the profound hope and purpose of the Board of Trustees that all concerned will join with the Board in the further development of that tradition and standing in the future."

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned, subject to call by the President

APPROVED

J. Harold Anderson
J. Harold Anderson, Chairman

W. W. Force
W. W. Force, Secretary